February 18, 1975

one, in the way of a state agency should have some jurisdiction over what takes place in the way of construction on our watercourses or our rivers in the state of Nebraska. At that time, there was considerable debate on the floor as to who this agency should be and, if you will remember, action was taken then that the Department of Roads would have this responsibility and it was given to them but I don't think the Department ever did very much in the way of reviewing any of the structures that was placed on any of our waterways or anything that took place in the way of construction in our river systems. I believe Senator Duis has taken quite a bit of interest in this through the years and he had suggested during the interim that we ought to have a hearing on this and then the structure that was put on the Platte River in the Omaha area probably brought this to a head. We will not go into What this bill does, then, it proposes through the new language that the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission under the statutes that they now operate, which is the flood plain management that came in to existence in 1967, they are delegated with the responsibility of assembling and putting together information that is available to them through data taken from the Corps of Army Engineers and the U.S. Geological Survey. After this data is assembled, they are, under the direction of the law, ordered to delineate all flood plains in the state of Nebraska. That's present law. This bill allows them to continue to do so but it is going to take, probably, 15 This bill allows them to to 16 years to get this done under the flood plain management law. So because of the news that we have heard, beginning last fall, from the Corps of Army Engineers that they are going to make a declaration declaring the Platte River to be navigable under a formula that's been in existence for many, many years under the criteria, this has aroused some real apprehension as to what we can do with the water from some of our river systems and it is being advocated, I believe, by a great majority of the people in Nebraska, we want some state agency to have control of the structures on our river systems, not only the Platte but all our river systems. So this bill is the result of that and it does give the responsibility of enforcement, until such time that the Commission has delineated the flood plain areas, it shall give enforcement to the Department of Water Resources. Now that is the agency we commonly refer to as the Dan Jones office and, with this bill then, we will give them responsibility until such time that a flood plain has been delineated that they will have to enforce and regulate the building of all structures or the granting of permit for the building of a structure on anyone of our river systems. So in brief, that is the best explanation I can make. If you want further explanation of what the flood plain management is, I am prepared to give it to you. Now, if there is questions, I will try to answer them. This is a bill that you have been reading much about and a program that you have been hearing much about.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator Keyes, then Senator Syas.

SENATOR KEYES: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask Senator Kremer a question, if he will answer.

SPEAKER: Senator Kremer, would you answer a question.

SENATOR KREMER: I am sorry. What was the question?